

Preface

Guide to the Comprehensive Evaluation Report (CER)

This Comprehensive Evaluation Report (CER) is organized into the following:

Preface – This section provides a brief description of the contents of each chapter and appendix in the CER (listed below). It also presents a description of the purpose of the CER, the information included in the CER, and its relation to the Proposed Land Management Plan.

Chapter 1 – *Area of Analysis* briefly describes the location of the Kootenai and Idaho Panhandle Plan Revision Zone (KIPZ) and the analysis areas used in development of the CER.

Chapter 2 – *Conditions and Trends* describes current condition, past and current trends under the 1987 plans, and future trends under the proposed plan. This chapter references and updates the information in the AMS and Technical Report for each revision topic, providing information on the plan area’s social, economic, and ecological conditions and trends that contribute to sustainability. This chapter also includes conditions and trends for Special Area Designations (Special Interest Areas, Research Natural Areas), Wild and Scenic Areas, Rangelands, and Social and Economic Systems.

Appendices – *Appendices* provide additional information and detail on subjects addressed in the CER and include:

Appendix A – Public Involvement on the CER

Appendix B – Range of Variability

Appendix C – Old Growth

Appendix D – Weed Risk Assessment

Appendix E – Fire Regime Condition Class

Appendix F – Species of Concern/Species of Interest

Appendix G – Existing Vegetation

Appendix H – Watershed, Soils, and Aquatic Species and Habitat

Appendix I – Vegetation Treatments and Timber Harvest Modeling

Appendix J – Rangeland Suitability

Appendix K – Inventoried Roadless Areas

Appendix L – Special Areas

Appendix M – Wild, Scenic, and Recreational Rivers

Description and Purpose of the CER

Comprehensive Evaluation Reports document the evaluation of the 1987 Forest Plans and proposed changes. Comprehensive evaluations “...evaluate current social, economic, and ecological conditions and trends that contribute to sustainability” (36 CFR 219.6). The CER is required in the planning process, serving as the principal document that supports the need to establish, amend or revise a plan.

The CER evaluates the relevant conditions and trends under the 1987 Forest Plans and the Proposed Land Management Plan (the Plan). The CER identifies factors that affect conditions and trends, includes information on what is causing conditions to change, and describes the influence the Plan has on moving toward desired conditions. In addition, the CER evaluates the likelihood of meeting the desired conditions and objectives pertinent to the social, economic, and ecological sustainability elements through Plan implementation. Results derived from forest plan monitoring and evaluation reports are included in assessing the performance of Land Management Plan direction and implementation.

Also included is documentation of public involvement that occurred in developing the CER. See Appendix A for a description of the public involvement process for the CER.

The CER is to be updated at least every five years to reflect any substantial changes in conditions and trends that could be affecting the sustainability elements since the completion of the preceding comprehensive evaluation. At this time, performance measures identified in the Plan are evaluated and compared to projected levels. Monitoring questions identified in the Plan will also be answered, as appropriate, in the five-year comprehensive evaluation report.

As a result of its connection with the Environmental Management System (EMS), the CER also identifies legal and other requirements for management of NFS lands. In addition, the conditions and trends of the environmental aspects of the EMS are broadly described in the CER, and the results of the EMS and annual audit are incorporated into the CER.